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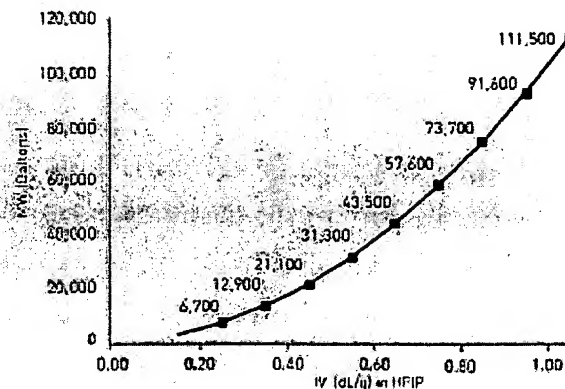
# Inherent Viscosity vs. Molecular Weight

Inherent Viscosity (IV) is a viscometric method for measuring molecular weight based on the flow time of a polymer solution through a narrow capillary divided by the flow time of the pure solvent through the capillary. The units of IV are typically in deciliters per gram (dL/g). IV is simple and inexpensive to obtain and is reproducible between different laboratories.

Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC) is a chromatographic method for measuring molecular size. The molecular size can be expressed as molecular weight. Data obtained from calibration with a standard polymer such as polystyrene. Data obtained by GPC are very method-dependent and are much less reproducible between different laboratories.

The six plots below are empirical correlations between IV and MW measured for polymer compositions produced by Durect Corporation. The IV data for poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide) and 65:35 poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide) were obtained in hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP). The IV data for the four remaining compositions were obtained in chloroform. All GPC data for these plots were obtained in chloroform using polystyrene calibration standards. It is important to note that these are empirical correlations between IVs and MWs. MWs obtained under conditions different from those used in our laboratory may not match the values shown here.

50:50  
DL-PLG



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